

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the claims

1-66. (Cancelled)

67. (Currently Amended): An endoluminal apparatus comprising:
an elongated main body having a proximal end, a distal end and at least one lumen ~~two lumens~~ extending through the main body, the main body having at least a first section near the proximal end and a second section near the distal end, and with the first section comprising a plurality of links.

wherein the first section may be selectively switched between a substantially flexible condition and a substantially rigid condition, and

wherein the second section is steerable relative to the first section ~~[[,]]~~ and

~~wherein at least one of the sections is comprised of a plurality of adjacent links.~~

68. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the main body includes a torque transmitting feature which provides torque transmission between the proximal and distal ends while the main body is unlocked, to cause the main body to rotate substantially about its central axis ~~and able to a from a desired configuration.~~

69. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 68 wherein the distal end comprises an atraumatic tip having at least one opening corresponding to the at least one lumen.

70. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the second section ~~first and/or second sections~~ may be ~~independently~~ switched between a flexible state and a substantially rigid state independently of the first section.

71. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 ~~with the first section or the second section, or both, comprising a plurality of adjacent links, and with~~ substantially each link in the first section configured to allow partial rotation relative to adjacent links and with the links arranged so that the first section can bend in at least two dimensions.

72. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the plurality of adjacent links are nestable relative to each other.

73. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the second section is steerable in up to three dimensions relative to ~~within any axial plane in a 360 degree circumference around~~ the first section.

74. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 74 wherein the second section is steerable in a single dimension relative to ~~within only one of the axial planes in a 360 degree circumference around~~ the first section.

75. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising at least one tensioning element routed through the elongated main body, wherein compression of the plurality of adjacent links ~~against one another relative to the~~ by a tensioning element places the first section, or the second section, or both ~~at least one of the sections~~ into the substantially rigid condition.

76. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising at least two liners extending along a length of the elongated main body.

77. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 76 wherein ~~[[the]]~~ at least one liner can transmit torque.

78. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising a liner creating a lumen in the main body ~~at least one of the lumens~~.

79. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 79 wherein the liner has a hydrophilic coating.

80. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising an endoscope extendable through the main body, with the endoscope having a steerable tip.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising an insufflation lumen within the main body ~~with at least one of the lumens adapted to provide insufflation~~.

83. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 80 wherein a first end of the endoscope is positionable in an off-axis position relative to the elongated main body such that a region of interest spaced apart from the elongated main body may be viewed at an angle via the endoscope.

84. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 67 further comprising a Y-port located along the first section, wherein the Y-port is in communication with at least one lumen extending through the elongated main body.

85. (Currently Amended): Apparatus comprising:
a first section joined to a second section;
at least one lumen ~~two lumens~~ extending through the first and second sections;

with the first section and the second section transformable between a substantially flexible condition and a shape-locked condition, independently of each other; and

with the second section having a steerable front end.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Currently Amended): An endoluminal apparatus, comprising:
a flexible shaft having a first section and a second section;
at least one lumen ~~two lumens~~ within the flexible shaft;
a locking mechanism permanently in the first section for holding the first section in a selected shape; and
an articulation mechanism in the second section for maneuvering the second section in at least two dimensions.

88. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 87 with the locking mechanism comprising a first linkage including a plurality of first links, with adjacent first links in the first linkage pivotably connected to each other, and with at least one first section tension element extending through substantially each of the first links.

89. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 88 with the articulation mechanism comprising a second linkage including a plurality of second links, with adjacent second links in the second linkage pivotably connected to each other, and with at least one second tension element extending through substantially each of the second links.

90. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 88 with substantially each first link having a contoured front surface adapted to engage with a contoured back surface of an adjacent first link.

91. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 88 with the at least one lumen extending through the first links and the second links ~~further comprising a lumen opening passing through substantially each of the first links, and with the lumen extending through the lumen openings in the first links.~~

92. (Previously Presented): Apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a first section and a second section;
a plurality of first links in the first section, with adjacent first links pivotably connected to each other, and with substantially each first link having a contoured front surface adapted to engage with a contoured back surface of an adjacent first link;
at least one first section tension element extending through substantially each of the first links;
a plurality of second links in the second section, with adjacent second links pivotably connected to each other, and with substantially each second link having a contoured front surface adapted to engage with a contoured back surface of an adjacent second link;
at least one second section steering wire extending through substantially each of the first links and the second links; and
at least one lumen extending through substantially each of the first links and the second links.

93. (Currently Amended): An endoluminal apparatus, comprising:
a flexible shaft having a first section and a second section;
at least one lumen within the flexible shaft;
shape locking means formed in the first section for holding the first section in a desired shape; and
steering means associated with the second section for steering an end of the second section in at least two dimensions.

94. (New): The apparatus of claim 67 with the second section comprising a plurality of links.